in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada district seeking a financial assistance of Rs. 48.41 crores. The proposal was examined by the Inter — Ministerial Committee for implementation of the rcommendations of the IT Action Plan. The Committee felt that it was not equitable to select schools in a particular district of a State and provide financial assistance to such schools only. The Committee therefore decided to drop this recommendation of the IT Action Plan.

**UGC Pool of SC/ST Students**

3515. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS:
SHRI GANDHI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has constituted a central pool since 1997 to facilitate SC/ST eligible scholars to register themselves for teaching jobs in various Universities/Colleges countrywise;

(b) if so, the aims and objective of this pool;

(c) how many times UGC has issued advertisement, till date, and the number of SC/ST Scholars registered under this pool; and

(d) how many of them have been benefited under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Central Pool Data Base is to provide a Central agency where persons belonging to SC/ST could register themselves for appointment to the post of Lecturer/Reader/ Professor and to enable the universities to approach the Commission for the names of eligible candidates belonging to SC/ST category for appointments.

(c) UGC had issued advertisement in leading newspapers in 1998. Thereafter, a circular was issued to all universities in 1999. The Commission enlisted 1438 eligible candidates for the recruitment as Lecturer, Reader and Professor.

(d) On requested, the UGC has furnished the list of eligible SC/ST candidates to 12 universities and 21 colleges. UGC has not received any feed back from the universities and colleges regarding number of SC/ST candidates actually selected.